

REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on January 24, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 23-26, 28 and 31, and objected to claims 29, 30 and 32-34. The Examiner rejected claims 23-26, 28 and 31 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,031 and the Examiner rejected claim 27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,031 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,779,630. The Examiner withdrew all remaining objections and rejections.

In view of the allowability of the present claims over the prior art of record, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree that the presently pending claims are obvious in view of claims set forth in U.S. Patent No. 6,675,031, the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer will not shorten the term of any patent issuing from the above-referenced application, and it is not anticipated that ownership of the various applications and patents will be divided in any event. Accordingly, Applicants hereby submit a properly executed Terminal Disclaimer to obviate the outstanding rejections based on obviousness-type double patenting.

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw all outstanding objections and rejections and pass the application to issuance.

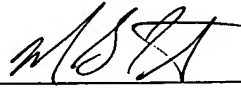
If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

General Authorization for Extensions of Time

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, Applicants hereby provide a general authorization to treat this and any future reply requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor. Furthermore, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the appropriate fee of **\$120.00** for the **one-month** extension of time, and any additional fees which may be required, to the credit card listed on the attached PTO-2038. However, if the PTO-2038 is missing, if the amount listed thereon is insufficient, or if the amount is unable to be charged to the credit card for any other reason, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 06-1315; Order No. TYHC:0047/FLE.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 24, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. G. Fletcher', written over a horizontal line.

Michael G. Fletcher
Reg. No. 32,777
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281-970-4545)